

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 95

By Kisber

A RESOLUTION to commend Freeman and Geneva Odell for their honorable and compassionate service to their family and community.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those exemplary citizens who have dedicated themselves to the compassionate service of their family and community; and

WHEREAS, Freeman and Geneva Odell are two such exemplary persons who evince the greatest integrity, compassion, and probity in all their chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Freeman Odell was born in Beech Bluff, Tennessee, and attended Beech Bluff public schools; and

WHEREAS, he enlisted in the Army at age 18, and served his country bravely in Europe for two years during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Odell, for forty-two years, diligently served South Central Bell, earning the respect of his peers and superiors alike for the exceptional quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, Freeman Odell is an active and devout member of the Church of Christ, which he has served faithfully for many years as a Deacon; and

WHEREAS, he served astutely as an election chairman for several years, and has frequently volunteered in his community, serving numerous organizations, including assisting with the fundraising efforts of Ruritan; and

WHEREAS, Freeman Odell and Geneva Russell Odell, were joined in holy matrimony in 1946, and are fortunate to have shared both love and companionship for the past 55 years; and

WHEREAS, the couple has been blessed with three daughters, Dianne, Donna, and Mary Beth, four grandsons, and two great-grandsons; and

WHEREAS, Geneva Russell Odell was born in Luray, Tennessee, and attended the Luray public schools; before her marriage she worked assiduously for Bell South in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, she has meticulously and astutely served the Red Cross for twenty years, along with having frequently prepared meals and offered shelter to visiting preachers, missionaries, and the homeless; and

WHEREAS, Geneva Odell tenderly cared for two foster children until the day they were adopted; and

WHEREAS, alongside her husband, with very little additional help or relief, she has lovingly tended to the extensive health needs of their daughter, Dianne, who has been confined to an Iron Lung for over fifty-one years due to complications from polio; and

WHEREAS, despite three bouts of cancer and a serious burn, Geneva Russell Odell continued to meet her daughter's needs; and

WHEREAS, providing home school assistance, she gave her daughter, Dianne, the gift of a quality education; and

WHEREAS, Freeman and Geneva Odell are extremely giving people who often reach out with compassion to people who life has treated unkindly, and they epitomize the ideals of the consummate professional, dedicated citizen and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, Geneva Odell has consistently cared for sick elderly persons in her community, welcoming them into her home until they were well enough to return to their own; and

WHEREAS, the Odells have opened up their home to visitations and Bible study; the Odell's home has also been the location for numerous showers, weddings, and gatherings after funerals; and

WHEREAS, all those who have entered the Odell home have been met with understanding, compassion, and love; Freeman and Geneva Odell have truly been "angels among us"; and

WHEREAS, they have never been known to complain about their burdens, and have endeavored to make their home a loving and joyous place; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Odell has said, "You take what God gives you, no matter what it is, and you make it a blessing!"; and

WHEREAS, Freeman and Geneva Odell have distinguished themselves as citizens of the highest order and as exceptional assets to their community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Odell have encouraged and lifted the burdens of everyone they have met, and are known throughout West Tennessee as people who love others; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby commend Freeman and Geneva Odell for their honorable and tender service to their family and community, and salute their unswerving commitment to living the examined life with compassion and courage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.